



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: COMPOSTING

In 2011, the Maryland legislature passed HB 817, which directed the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Maryland Environmental Service and the Maryland Department of Agriculture to investigate ways to improve the regulatory environment to encourage composting. The Authority participated in the stakeholder group, which met over the summer and fall of 2012. The group, which was made up of private sector operators, consultants with technical expertise, environmental groups, representatives from local municipalities, and state agency officials, met to review composting programs from across the country to build a consensus for a new composting structure for Maryland. A final report from the group was forwarded to the Secretary of MDE in December 2012. This report can be found at: <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Land/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Publications/>

[Documents/composting_workgroup_final_report_1-2013000%20\(1\).pdf](#)

During the 2013 legislative session, HB 1440 was introduced, and ultimately passed, to provide MDE with the authority to promulgate revisions to the solid waste regulations of the state to encourage composting. The bill was informed by the deliberations of the stakeholder group. The legislation directed MDE to move food scraps from the solid waste category to the recycling category, if the material is composted. A smaller stakeholder group, including many of the participants in the 2012 study group, has been meeting to work through technical recommendations that will ultimately be applied to the draft regulations. In the end, the process should result in regulations that are protective of the environment, while providing clear guidance to the practitioners of composting in Maryland.



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MRN / SWANA 8TH JOINT CONFERENCE



n June 20 and 21, Maryland Recycling Network (MRN) and the Solid Waste Association of North America

(SWANA) Mid-Atlantic Chapter held their 8th joint conference at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Maryland. This year's conference "What to Expect When You're NOT Expecting! ...and a few Great Expectations..." focused on disaster management preparation and organics recycling and management.

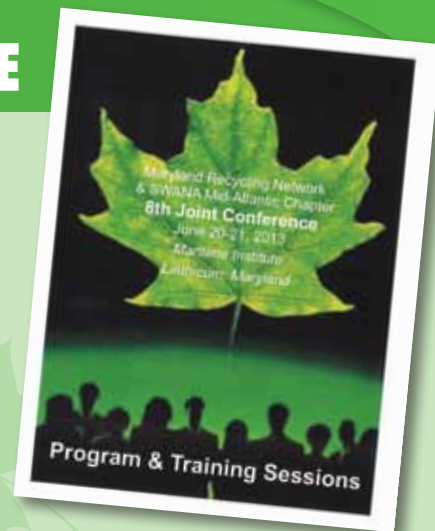
The keynote speaker, Dr. Walter S. Maestri, is an emergency management consultant and former emergency manager for Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Dr. Maestri opened the conference with an eye-opening speech regarding the detailed planning required, and the tremendous coordination needed to

manage disaster response. Participants gained knowledge regarding the types of debris created with each potential disaster and tips for standby emergency management services contracting. Additional sessions discussed reimbursement potential from FEMA and the meticulous record keeping, documentation, and monitoring required.

The joint conference also focused on the next waste stream realm, organics! MDE provided an update on the composting workgroup report, and projections on organics in Maryland was given by the U.S. Composting Council. Participants also learned about organics processing technologies and a nationwide outlook on the organics movement. To conclude the conference, staff from Howard County, Maryland shared details of their organics processing operation, from curbside food waste

collection through the composting process to a marketable end product. The MRN/SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter joint conference was a great opportunity to network and gain valuable knowledge about these relevant and timely topics.

Please visit www.marylandrecyclingnetwork.org and/or www.swana-midatl.org for additional information



NAWTEC 21 HELD IN FT. MYERS, FL



olid waste professionals from around the world gathered in Ft. Myers, Florida from April 22 to 24, for the Solid

Waste Association of North America's (SWANA's) 21st annual North American Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Conference, or NAWTEC. Each year, hundreds of industry professionals gather to discuss the latest developments in energy-from-waste technologies while networking with equipment and engineering vendors and professionals, where they could share and discuss the latest innovations in the field.

This year's conference was hosted by the Lee County Solid Waste Division, which provides solid waste collection and disposal services to more than 650,000 residents and many visitors of Southwest Florida. The conference began with a welcome from Cecil Pendergrass, Chairman of the Lee County Board of Commissioners, and Lindsey Sampson, Director of the Lee County Solid Waste

Division. The conference featured almost 40 presentations in two different tracks, technical and experiential. The technical track, offered scientifically-oriented discussions related to waste-to-energy. These presentations included discussions on such relevant issues as the development of synthetic gasses through combustion, the use of incinerator ash residue in building applications, and composting of solid waste.

The experiential track dealt mostly with learning from the experiences of others in building and operating WTE facilities. Attendees learned about the challenges and triumphs of the expansion of the Lee County Waste-to-Energy Facility, the expansion of the H-POWER facility in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the new facility set to begin operations next year in Durham County in Ontario, Canada.

Along with these tracks, there were the American Society of Mechanical Engineers scholarships, given to bright young students for their innovative

papers and research done in the WTE field. There also were updates on the political climate related to WTE by representatives of SWANA and by Ted Michaels of the Energy Recovery Council.

The conference concluded with a tour of the 300 acre Buckingham Road Site, which houses Lee County's WTE facility, its single-stream Material Recovery Facility (MRF), and its Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) recycling facility. Attendees were able to tour the 1,836 ton per day WTE facility that is owned by the County and operated by Covanta Energy. Covanta also operates the Authority's Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility. Bus tours also were available to visit the MRF and C&D recycling facilities.

NAWTEC will be held in Canada for the first time in May 2014, where attendees can observe firsthand, the progress of the new Durham WTE facility.

WASTE-TO-ENERGY TECHNOLOGY USED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY



n May 2, Montgomery County Sheriff Deputies brought approximately 40 handguns, shotguns and rifles to the Montgom-

ery County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) in Dickerson, Maryland where they were destroyed by incineration. The vast majority of these guns had been seized from individuals who were served protective orders for domestic violence. Others guns were turned in through gun buy-back or turn-in programs run by the County.

The deputies individually threw each of the weapons into the waste pit feedchute at the RRF and subsequently observed them being burned to ensure they were all properly destroyed. Among those observing the destruction of the firearms were news crews from two local Washington, D.C. television stations, the NBC affiliate WRC-TV, Channel 4 and the ABC affiliate, WJLA, Channel 7. Each of the

stations featured the weapons destruction on their newscasts and posted stories on their web sites.

NBC4

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Seized-Guns-Destroyed-in-Incinerator-in-Montgomery-County-206008431.html>

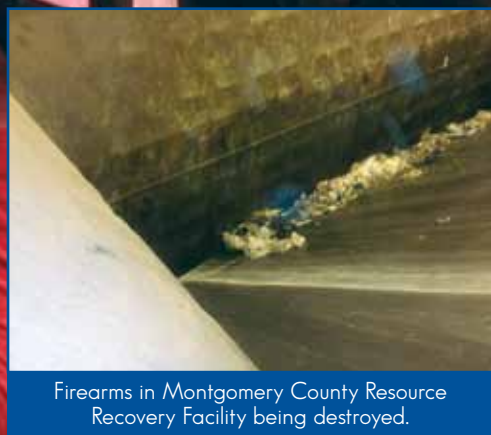
WMAL

<http://wjla.com/11ZcsAD>

The RRF has worked with the Sheriff's Department before to not only destroy weapons, but to incinerate sensitive legal evidence, including documents and controlled and dangerous substances. The procedures for the destruction of these materials always include law enforcement officer witnesses. These services are provided to the agencies at no additional cost to the citizens of the County.



Approximately 40 handguns, shotguns and rifles ready for safe and environmentally friendly disposal.



Firearms in Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility being destroyed.



Montgomery County Sheriff Deputies disposing of firearms.



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WASTEWATCH

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AUTHORITY STAFF NEWS

The Authority recently hired **Kitty McIlroy** as a project assistant.

She comes as a recent graduate, with a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies and minor in Peace Studies from Goucher College.

Additionally, as part of the International Scholars Program at Goucher, she studied sustainability, ecology and responsible eco-tourism development through a semester abroad in Costa Rica at the Monteverde Institute. There, she researched the impacts of tourism such as pollution, resource-exhaustion, natural habitat destruction and species extinction, as well as community-based solutions. As a final project she

proposed an organic food program for local schools and farmers.

As part of her senior environmental capstone class, she and a team of students developed and implemented a Green Fund at Goucher, supported by requiring a small annual fee on each student to fund large-scale projects, like renewable energy on campus.

She has worked for various environmental non-profit organizations such as Greenpeace, Civic Works and the Parks and People Foundation.

She recently spent nearly a year working for the Baltimore County Bureau of Solid Waste Management as an intern and customer service



representative. There she promoted recycling and waste prevention in various projects such as community outreach and research, as well as constructing a 3-D model of the Eastern Sanitary Landfill in White Marsh, MD. This model and its accompanying informative backboard will rotate through the Baltimore County library system to educate and encourage residents to participate in the County's single-stream recycling program.